Comparison/Contrast Paper – Frank Miller’s *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* and Christopher Nolan’s *The Dark Knight*

Graphic Novel – Mr. Daniels

One of the most important topics that comics and graphic novels focus on is the idea of the superhero. In fact, it would probably be safe to say that a majority of the graphic novels bought in stores across the country are indeed super-heroic in nature. This should be no surprise, nor should it be that many people have their own opinion as to what superhero is “best” and will spend the time telling another comic lover why this is so. Thus, the topic of which superhero is best or what version of a certain superhero found is the true concept of the character will be a reoccurring discussion from generation to generation.

For the purposes of this assignment, you are asked to discuss the similarities and differences seen between Frank Miller’s graphic novel and Christopher Nolan’s second Batman movie. The possibilities for topics that I see are:

* Setting – Are there similarities between each setting? How does Gotham look in each medium? How might the time in which we see Batman affect his character?
* Characters – These three characters are mainly seen within each medium: Batman, Joker, and Two-Face. How is each character similar/different? Possible additions could be Alfred and Lt. Gordon. (Think about motives of characters in both.)
* Plot – Are there any similarities between plots in each medium? If you wish, you might possibly want to discuss “Batman Begins” if you’ve seen that as the end of this movie has some better connections than “The Dark Knight.”
* Theme – Think about the connection between the titles of the two stories with the reference of “The Dark Knight.” How does the title lend to the theme of the story and/or characters? Do they provide a similar picture of Batman as The Dark Knight? Why or why not?

This paper should be more than one page, double spaced, and MLA format (which means 12 pt font, Times New Roman, margins at 1 in., and page numbers in the upper right-hand corner. Check my wikispace at <http://twhsdaniels.wikispaces.com> for more details or template). This paper will be due on 9/15 for 1st hour and 9/16 for 6th hour.